TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF (Large Entity)

Docket No.
0075043|5AA

In Re Application Of: **A. Singhani, et al.**

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
09/773,337	1/31/01	B. Hoffman	45828	2136	5977

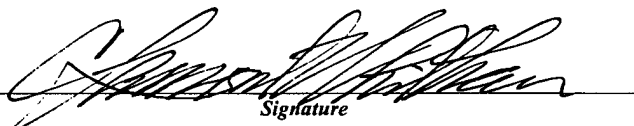Invention: **Supplier Portal for Global Procurement E-Business Applications**

FEB 15 2006

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on: *11/18/2005*

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_____
Signature

C. Lamont Whitham
Reg. No. 22,424

Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson,
& Cook, PC
11491 Sunset Hills Road - #340
Reston, VA 20190
703/787-9400
Customer No. 30743

Dated: **Jan. 15, 2006**

CC:

P30LARGE/REV07

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re patent application of

Anil K. Singhani	Confirmation No. 5977
Serial No. 09/773,337	Group Art Unit 2136
Filed January 31, 2001	Examiner Hoffman, Brandon S.

For SUPPLIER PORTAL FOR GLOBAL PROCUREMENT E-BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPELLANT'S BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. §41.37

This brief, which is filed herewith in triplicate, is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on November 18, 2005, and the Notice of Panel Decision mailed January 18, 2006.

This brief contains these items under the following headings, and in the order set forth below (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)):

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in the appeal is:

☐ the party named in the caption of this brief.

☑ the following party:

International Business Machines Corporation located in Armonk, New York, USA.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

With respect to other appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal:

☑ there are no related appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings related to, which directly affect or may be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this pending Appeal.

☐ these are as follows:

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of the claims in this application are:

A. Total number of claims in Application

Claims in the application are: 1-7

B. Status of all the claims:

1. Claims cancelled: none

2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not cancelled: none

3. Claims pending: 1-7

4. Claims allowed: none

5. Claims rejected: 1-7

C. Claims on Appeal.

The claims on appeal are: 1-7

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The status of amendments filed subsequent to the final rejection are as follows:

Claims 1 and 7 were amended by amendment dated February 28, 2005. An amendment after final rejection was filed October 13, 2005 which sought to rewrite claim 2 in independent form; however, this amendment was not entered in the case. Therefore, the application includes claims 1-7 with claim 2 being present without amendment.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The invention as defined in the claims on appeal is directed to a method and system which allows users access e-business applications through a specialized site which streamlines registration processes by eliminating redundancies and speeding up application uses through a single user login and consistent user interface. Once a user is registered on the registration site, the user can either access an application available on an open access area or submit a request to access applications that are available in a controlled section of the supplier portal (see page 2, lines 2-17). As noted on page 2, lines 23 et seq., the user will see, on subsequent logins, a customized portal page with links to both open access area applications and controlled applications for which authorization has been received. However, the individual applications will control the entitlement (i.e., what a user can or cannot do).

With reference to Figure 1 and page 7 a supplier portal creates a central repository for registration process information, company information, and user information, making this information available to all applications that open into the supplier portal. A userid/password 102 is obtained from a supplier (guest) coordinator 101 and supplied to a business representative 103. An application coordinator provides information to a portal administrator at 104. This information includes the company name, application, and supplier coordinator name, userid, email, etc. A determination is made in decision block 105 as to whether the supplier is registered. If the supplier is not registered, then a company profile is created in function block 106. If the supplier is registered, then a further determination is made in decision block 107 as to whether the application is registered. If the application is not registered, then a company and its mapping is created in function block 108 and, in function block 109, the supplier coordinator is registered and authorized to use the application. If the application is registered as determined in decision block 107, then a further determination is made in decision block 110 as to whether the application is mapped to the supplier and supplier coordinator. If the application is not mapped to the supplier and supplier coordinator, the supplier coordinator mapping to the

application is crated in function block 111. Finally, an email note is sent to the supplier coordinator application administrator in function block 112.

Figure 2 shows an example of a supplier user registration process initiated by a supplier coordinator, and Figure 3 shows an example of a supplier user registration process initiated by a user. Both show an automated approval (209 in Figure 2 and 309 in Figure 3) using a methodology where information in the portal common registration (PCR) data store (see page 8, line 5; page 9, line 7; and page 9, line 22).

Figure 4 shows an overview of the supplier portal 40 architecture. As explained on page 10, line 9, there is a graphical user interface (GUI). In an automated fashion the previously authorized applications (step 45) of registered users (step 42) are presented on login. As explained on page 10, at lines 20-23, registration for restricted applications can proceed with information stored in the PCR data store 46. Figure 5 shows the information being accessed in function block 50. As registrations are approved for a particular user, the user's home page is updated to reflect prior approvals. An automated approval process is shown in steps 52, 53, and 54, and is described in the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11.

With reference to page 15, lines 25 et sq., the purpose of the PCR data store 46 is to store a set of common data to be shared by all applications (e.g., name, address, etc.), as well as unique data to a specific application. Page 16, lines 10 et seq., sets forth many examples of different types of information that would be stored in the PCR data store 46. Page 17 lines 7 et seq. provides examples of the types of actions application owners must perform to integrate their Web applications with the supplier portal 40 (e.g., extract data from the PCR databases; migrate userids, etc.). Page 18, lines 13 et seq., describes how applications maintain a local repository of application specific profile data.

With respect to independent claim 1, the supplier portal is illustrated in Figure 4 as item 40. The guest is identified as being registered at step 42, and the guest information is stored in a guest registration (GR) data store 44. The applications which are authorized for a previously registered guest are determined at step 45. When applications are not authorized, the guest is prompted to register for restricted

application used in a portal common registration (see upper left corner of portal 40 and process "A" which connects with Figure 1 of the application which is described in detail above). Figure 5, discussed in detail above, shows accessing guest registration information at step 50 and building a customized home page at step 52. If approval is needed (step 52), a request for approval (step 53) is sent to the application administrator. Figure 4 shows the supplier portal 40 includes links to both open access and entitled applications in a personalized home page.

Dependent claim 2, it is recognized that certain individual application under the supplier portal 40 may require more specific data (see page 16 of the application described in more detail above. As noted on page 11, at line 12, the guest provides the userid/password ONCE during the entire session. As explained on page 13, lines 28, when the guest returns to the supplier portal home page, he or she is not prompted to re-enter the userid/password if an application is hosted under the same realm. As explained in the paragraph on page 13, lines 13-21, accessing both public access and restricted applications is achieved by simply clicking on links.

With respect to dependent claims 3-5, page 14, line 24 et seq. discusses the PCR GUI presenting registration forms that are customized for specific applications, and page 14, lin 19 describes having approval cycles tailored to a particular application. Bookmarking of applications (claim 6) is discussed on page 13, lines 22 et seq.

Independent claim 7 is similar to claim 1. The supplier portal is shown in Figure 4 as "40". The means for determining if a guest is registered is performed by the computer 41 at process step 42. The GR data store is shown as item "44". The portal common registration is shown in the top left of the supplier portal 40 in Figure 4, and accessing the information is described with reference to Figure 5 of the application. The means for determining whether applications have been authorized can best be seen as the computer 41 performing the step 45 in Figure 4. The means for accessing information from the GR data store is best exemplified by the computer 41 using the supplier portal and having a guest registration home page 43 interact with the data store 44 shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 illustrates operations performed by

a computer (the means for determining whether approval is needed in Claim 7) where the need for approval is addressed at step 52, and the e-mail requests to and response from the application administrator are shown in steps 53 and 54. The means for storing links to all applications is best shown as the supplier portal 40 (note the right side) in Figure 4. Page 13, lines 13-21 of the application discuss operations being performed by clicking on links.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 1-7 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,606,606 to Starr in view of U.S. Patent 6,611,725 to Zey.

I) Are claims 1 and 7 obvious over the combination of Starr and Zey?

II) Is claim 2 obvious over the combination of Starr and Zey?

III) Are claims 3-6 obvious over the combination of Starr and Zey?

ARGUMENT VIIA. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

No rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph are at issue in this case.

ARGUMENT VIIB. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

No rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph are at issue in this case.

ARGUMENT VIIC. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

No rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are at issue in this case.

ARGUMENT VIID. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

All claims have been rejected as being obvious over a combination of Starr and Zey. However, neither reference shows any of the following features recited in the claims:

Claims 1 and 7

determining whether APPLICATIONS have been authorized for a registered guest; and

accessing information to build a customized home page for the guest, THIS HOME PAGE BEING MODIFIED AND UPDATED AS THE GUEST'S REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO APPLICATIONS GETS APPROVED; and

an e-mail for sending a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving responses from the application administrator.

Claim 2

defining 1 to n level approval cycles a user must go through to get authorized to access an APPLICATION;

logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's userid/password ONCE for each session, as long as applications requested by the guest are in a same realm; and

invoking by a logged in guest ANY of their approved APPLICATIONS by simply clicking the link to the desired application in the guest's customized home page.

Claims 3-6

Claim 3 requires that the approval cycles are customizable. Claim 4 requires

16

that <u>approval cycles are defined for a section of an application</u>. Claim 5 requires <u>application specific registration fields</u>. Claim 6 requires features for <u>bookmarking applications for later access</u>.

Because neither Starr nor Zey show or suggest the above underlined features, no combination of these two references would make the claims obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

<u>Claims 1 and 7</u>

The principal reference to Starr is not related to and does not show a portal which allows a user to <u>selectively access different applications</u>. Rather, Starr is focused on permitting the user to engage in various financial transactions involving his own accounts. In Starr, because there are no separate APPLICATIONS, there is never a need to hold data required for registering for different applications such that it can be used again when accessing a different application (i.e., a different application is never accessed). Zey does not provide this feature either (and is not relied on by the Examiner as providing this feature)

The principal reference to Starr is not related to and does not show a portal which builds a customized home page for a guest which includes links to various applications that the guest is registered for. In Starr, the user can upload information data from an application or export data for use by an application (e.g., accounting data used by Quicken or an other application). But this is not the same as or similar to building up and/or modifying a page as the guest requests access to applications. Zey does not provide this feature either (and is not relied on by the Examiner as providing this feature).

Further, the principal reference to Starr does not show or suggest sending an e-mail to an application administrator or receiving a response. Zey merely shows an e-mail being used to notify approval or disapproval, but does not teach or suggest forwarding a request for approval so as to allow approval for access to an application.

In view of the above, the Examiner's position concerning claims 1 and 7 should be reversed.

Claim 2

Because Starr and Zey are unrelated to a supplier portal for applications, neither reference shows or suggests

logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's userid/password ONCE for each session, as long as applications requested by the guest are in a same realm;

In Starr, you remain in the same financial application, and there never would be a requirement for using the userid/password for more than one application. In sharp contrast, Starr only deals with logging onto one application to conduct secure transactions. Zey does not make up for the deficiencies of Starr.

In view of the above, the Examiner's position with respect to claim 2 should be reversed.

Claims 3-6

Because Starr and Zer are unrelated to a supplier portal for applications, neither reference shows or suggests

A) anything with respect to approval cycles for different applications (see claims 3 and 4),

B) use of different registration fields that are unique to different applications (see claim 5), or

C) use of bookmarks to access different applications (see claim 6).

In view of the above, the Examiner's position with respect to each of claims 3-6 should be reversed.

ARGUMENT VIIE. REJECTION OTHER THAN 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 AND 112

There are no rejections at issue in this case other than that lodged under 35 U.S.C.§103.

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

The text of the claims involved in the appeal are:

1. A process for managing business, technical and operational data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the Internet comprising the steps of:

providing a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a registered user or not;

determining whether a guest is a registered user from input by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select "Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web userid/password that enables them to obtain user-level registration for any of global procurement applications available under the supplier portal;

when a guest obtains a Web userid/password in GR, storing guest information in a GR data store;

determining whether any applications have been authorized for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted applications in a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle;

accessing information from the GR data store to automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications get approved;

determining whether approval is needed for a requested application and, if so, sending by email a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator; and

storing links to all applications for which the guest is approved, these links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home page which displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest has been registered and authorized.

2. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

defining 1 to n level approval cycles a user must go through to get authorized to access an application;

logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's usereid/password once for each session, as long as applications requested by the guest are in a same realm; and

invoking by a logged in guest any of their approved applications by simply clicking the link to the desired application in the guest's customized home page.

3. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as recited in claim 2, wherein the approval cycles are customizable for each application.

4. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as recited in claim 2, wherein the approval cycles are defined for a section of an application, providing a finer level of access control.

5. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as recited in claim 2, wherein application specific registration fields are defined so that a registration form, unique to an application, is displayed when a user requests access to an application.

6. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as recited in claim 2, wherein guests may bookmark applications for later access, further comprising the step of prompting by an application a guest to enter their userid/password for authentication against data stored in the GR data store when the application is accessed using a bookmark.

7. A data processing system for managing business, technical and operational data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the Internet

comprising:

a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a registered user or not;

means for determining whether a guest is a registered user from input by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select "Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web userid/password that enables them to obtain user-level registration for any of global procurement applications available under the supplier portal;

a GR data store storing guest information when a guest obtains a Web userid/password;

a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle;

means for determining whether any applications have been authorized for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted applications in the PCR;

means for accessing information from the GR data store to automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications get approved;

means for determining whether approval is needed for a requested application and, if so, sending by email a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator; and

means for storing links to all applications for which the guest is approved, these links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home page which displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest has been registered and authorized.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No filings were made under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 or 37 C.F.R. 1.132

23

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no related proceedings to this Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Whitham
Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190

Tel. (703) 787-9400
Fax. (703) 787-7557

Customer No. 30743